



**Town of Surfside
Emergency Town Commission Meeting**

AGENDA

July 9, 2020

7 p.m.

Town Hall

9293 Harding Ave, 2nd Floor Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Members

Town Clerk McCreedy called the roll with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Charles Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer and Commissioner Charles Kesl.

Also present were Town Manager Guillermo Olmedillo and Town Attorney Lillian Arango.

C. Mayor and Commission Remarks

2. Discussion and Action on Items to be Placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

Mayor Burkett stated that this meeting was requested by him due to time restraints for placing questions on the November ballot. He stated that he wanted to discuss the questions, the language and he wanted to hear the rest of the Commissions' comments on these ballot questions. He proceeded to provide a presentation with the proposed ballot questions.

Commissioner Kesl asked Mayor Burkett regarding the legality of the document he presented.

Mayor Burkett responded to Commissioner Kesl's question.

Commissioner Salzhauer would like the Commission to focus on the things they agreed on and then move on to the more contentious items. The importance is the zoning code and work with the one in existence and make it more restrictive. She commented on the salary of the Commissioners and stated it is already in

the Charter. She also stated that she feels that the work they are performing is a lot of work for a \$1.00 a year salary.

Commissioner Kesl stated that due to the upcoming elections there are a lot of ballot initiatives which become overwhelming and people currently would like to stick to basics. He stated that he does not agree with ballot initiatives that bind us to something especially due to COVID-19. He will support non-binding straw polls to include undergrounding power systems.

Commissioner Salzhauer would like to see the ballot question regarding the P3 to protect the lease or sale of Town land and it needs to be specific.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Commissioner Salzhauer regarding the restriction on the salaries of the Commission.

Commissioner Velasquez agreed that the Commission should be paid more than \$1.00 a year because of the time they spend and stated their time is worth more than \$1.00 a year. She also stated the importance of undergrounding powerlines.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on the salary of the Commission and referred to Resolution No. 968 from 1976 where it speaks about the reduction of pay to \$1.00 per year for the Commission. She spoke regarding the past election and supports the ballot question of the term limits.

Mayor Burkett commented on travel expenses for elected officials which included not only the elected officials but their travel guest. He commented that it was much more liberal.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that is incorrect and the Town does not pay for the expenses for the elected official's spouse or partner.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that they can tweak the travel expense policy without taking it to the residents.

Commissioner Kesl commented on the salary and benefits of the elected officials and believes one needs to survive and is in agreement that there needs to be a salary attached to the position of a Commissioner.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Commissioner Kesl and Commissioner Salzhauer regarding the compensation for the position of elected official.

Commissioner Velasquez feels that the ballot question should be changed to include a compensation of some sort if it is not a salary then at least benefits.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on the salary and clarified the compensation which is stated in the Charter.

Town Attorney Arango addressed questions and comments made by the elected officials.

Commissioner Velasquez agrees with term limits across the board and believes it should be on the ballot.

Commissioner Kesl agrees with term limits to be placed on ballot.

Further discussion took place among the Town Commission regarding the term limit question on the ballot.

Mayor Burkett gave the presentation on ballot question number 3 regarding the prohibition of the sale or lease of Town property for longer than a period of two years.

Further discussion took place regarding the changes to the Charter regarding public referendum, selling of Town land and the Commission agreed on ballot question 3, but more work needs to be done.

Mayor Burkett presented ballot question number 4 regarding property tax revenue.

Commissioner Velasquez commented that it should be 55 % of the voters in regards to the referendum passing.

Commissioner Salzhauer agrees that the voters should decide when the Town borrows money and spoke about the tax revenue.

The Commission requested Town Attorney Arango to provide language for the referendum for the Town borrowing any monies with at least 60% of voters to approve the referendum.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kesl to amend Ballot Question 4 to read as follows "Shall the Charter be amended to provide for a prohibition against, and a requirement that there be a public referendum for, the Town taking out any loan or borrowing of any type, which would put the Town into debt for more than 10% of its annual property tax revenue average over 5 year period, without a super majority, of at least three of the members of the Town Commission voting to approve the measure, which shall subsequently be followed and approved by a public referendum in which at least 60% of voters approve", seconded by Commissioner Salzhauer. All voted in favor.

Mayor Burkett presented Ballot Question 5 regarding the charter language.

Discussion among the Commission continued on Ballot Question number 5. Commissioners requested clarification on this ballot question and requested to bring this ballot question back at another meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to not address the ballot question regarding leaving the \$1.00 salary for Commissioners, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Mayor Burkett voting against.

Commissioner Velasquez provided an overview of the undergrounding of the powerlines which is in the agenda packet for the July 14, 2020.

Commissioner Kesl commented on some of the aesthetics and sustainability language in the resolution.

Commissioner Velasquez addressed Commissioner Kesl's comments on the aesthetics of undergrounding the powerlines.

Further discussion took place among the Commission regarding the language of the resolution for the ballot question on undergrounding.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez for the language to read "a non-binding referendum in favor of undergrounding the powerlines in Surfside and other utilities at an estimated cost of _____, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. All voted in favor.

The following members of the public spoke on the item:
Debby Cimadevilla
George Kousoulas
Jeff Rose
Carolyn Baumel

Commissioner Salzhauer asked Town Attorney Arango to look at the P3 ballot question.

Mayor Burkett stated that those issues will come back at the next meeting.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that she does not agree with having another special meeting.

Mayor Burkett stated that there might have to be another meeting in order to address the ballot questions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to hear item 9A COVID-19 first, then the ballot questions to follow with the regular agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. All voted in favor.

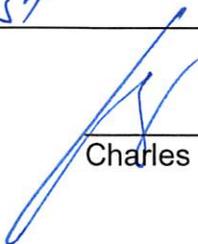
A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to kill and not discuss the ballot question regarding salary for Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Burkett voting in opposition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to kill the ballot question regarding term limits for elected officials, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Velasquez and Mayor Burkett voting in opposition.

3. Adjournment

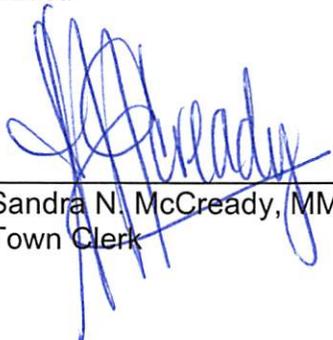
A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez, to adjourn the meeting without objection at 9:59 p.m. The motion received a second from Commissioner Kesl. All voted in favor.

Accepted this 17 day of August, 2020.



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk